

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing unit for executing an encrypted software program, the data processing unit comprising:
 - means for retrieving a serial number from non-volatile memory unit
 - means for retrieving decryption procedure, wherein the processing unit is the unit that can retrieve the serial number from the non-volatile memory unit;
 - means for decrypting an encrypted software program using the retrieved serial number as an encryption key and the decryption procedure;
2. (Original) The data processing unit as recited in claim 1 wherein the encrypted software program is stored in the memory unit.
3. (Previously Amended) The data processing unit as recited in claim 1, wherein the encrypted software program is stored in an external memory unit.
4. (Previously Amended) The data processing unit as recited in claim 1 wherein the serial number relates to the data processing unit.
5. (Previously Amended) The data processing unit as recited in claim 1 wherein the serial number is associated with a plurality of data processing units.
6. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting software programs, the method comprising:
 - retrieving a serial number from non-volatile memory unit;
 - retrieving decryption procedure, wherein the processing unit is the unit that can retrieve the serial number from the non-volatile memory unit;
 - decrypting an encrypted software program using the retrieved serial number as an encryption key and the decryption procedure;

7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Amended) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the serial number relates to the data processing unit.
9. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the encrypted software program is stored external to the data processing unit.
10. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 6 wherein the encrypted program is stored in the data processing unit.
- 11-25 (cancel)